

International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership Open Call for SURVMARK-2 Expertise Transfer Scheme

International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership

The International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership (ICBP) is a unique and innovative collaboration that brings together clinicians, policymakers, researchers and cancer data experts. It aims to measure international differences in cancer survival and crucially, identify factors that might be driving these differences.

The ICBP produces high quality research to help identify best international practice and optimise cancer services, ultimately helping to improve policy outcomes for cancer patients. Our research has provided new evidence that has informed cancer control plans and has underpinned the development and design of cancer patient pathways.

ICBP researchers have pioneered a range of methods and research tools to enable robust international comparisons. As a truly global initiative, the ICBP has involved 22 jurisdictions in 8 countries, across 3 continents. Each participating jurisdiction has had up-to-date, long-established and high-quality population-based cancer registry data, comparable levels of spending on health, and universal access to health care.

The ICBP has now entered phase 2 of its research programme and has commissioned Dr Freddie Bray and Dr Isabelle Soerjomataram from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) to lead a project titled SURVMARK-2.

For more information about the partnership please visit www.ICBP.org.uk or contact lucie.hooper@cancer.org.uk.

ICBP SURVMARK-2

Population-based estimates of cancer survival (alongside incidence and mortality) provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of early-detection strategies and the quality of clinical care and management.

Previous studies have documented persisting differences in cancer survival across countries. Differences in health systems, such as variation in early-detection and treatment practices, as well as differences in patients and in doctors' practices may contribute to international differences in survival. Differences in classification, coding, and registration practices may also explain part of the observed variation.

ICBP SURVMARK-2 will take a multidisciplinary approach to address these challenges and provide a comprehensive view of the most up-to-date cancer survival statistics tailored to each stakeholder, accompanied by tools to facilitate future benchmarking studies. The study will include data from 21 jurisdictions in 7 high-income countries and will provide survival estimates for eight cancer sites: colon, rectum, oesophagus, stomach, liver, pancreas, lung and ovary.

The key objectives of the ICBP SURVMARK-2 project are:

1. The provision and elucidation of up-to-date measures of cancer survival, incidence, and mortality;

2. A systematic approach to understanding how registry processes, clinical practice, and variations in stage at diagnosis impact short- and long-term survival;
3. A comprehensive assessment of progress and gaps over the period of 1995–2014.

For more information on this project please visit <http://survival.iarc.fr/Survmark/en/> or contact Survival@iarc.fr.

Expertise transfer

The ICBP and SURVMARK-2 are committed to fostering an expanded data sharing scheme to benefit all stakeholders. As part of our ambition to expand the use of the comprehensive database on survival, incidence and mortality, funds for expertise transfer are available that will allow external researchers to visit IARC, based in Lyon, France, to undertake additional analyses within the framework of the expertise transfer scheme. Our scheme aims to provide a funded mechanism to enable junior and senior researchers within and outside of the ICBP partner countries to collaborate and gain relevant skills and expertise.

Applicants who are successful in applying to this expertise transfer scheme will receive **between £1500 - £4000** to cover costs. **The amount of money granted will be dependent upon criteria such as travel distance and length of stay.**

Applications will be reviewed by the SURVMARK-2 Central Team and agreed by the ICBP Chair and Deputy Chair. Applicants will be scored on the following criteria:

- **Relevance** – is there a close alignment and fit with overall ICBP and SURVMARK-2 aims?
- **Previous experience** – does the applicant have experience of survival analysis and/or international comparisons?
- **Impact** – is there a clear pathway between project outputs, dissemination and impact demonstrated?
- **Value for money** – is the funding requested fully justified and identified costs are reasonable?

Please note priority will be given to researchers from participating ICBP jurisdictions.

Please consult our publication policy for details on ICBP SURVMARK-2 general principles, authorship policy, acknowledgement guidelines and rules on the sharing of unpublished data.

Please get in touch with lucie.hooper@cancer.org.uk if you have any further questions.

Key timescales

- Our first open call for applicants is now open.
- Please complete this application form and send to ICBP@cancer.org.uk by **5:00pm Monday 3rd December 2018 (GMT) alongside your CV.**
- Depending on the number and quality of applications received there may be further calls for additional applicants during the year.